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### Newspaper; 1948-06; Rev. Collier

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JUNE 1948

# Bethel Pastor Appointed As AME Parley Ends

A 33-year-old African Methodist Episcopal minister who has served as a pastor for eight years and a seminary instructor for 2½ years last night was appointed pastor of Bethel AME Church, 551 Eagle St. He is the Rev. John W. P. Collier, Jr., former head of the department of rural churches at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O.

The appointment was announced by Bishop B. Ward Nichols of New York, presiding bishop of the New York Conference of the AME Church, at the concluding session of the annual conference at Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church, 60 Howard St.

Bethel Church's new pastor was graduated from Plainfield (N. J.) High School when he was 17 years old and magna cum laude from Wilberforce University when he was 21. He was given an award for the highest scholastic average when he received his BD degree from Payne Theological Seminary.

Before joining the seminary faculty, he was pastor for five years of an AME church at Westfield, N. J., and for three years at Cranford, N. J. During the last two Summers he has done church extension work in the South under the Phelps-Stokes Fund and Home Missions' Council of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ.

The Rev. Mr. Collier succeeds the Rev. Dr. D. Ormonde Walker who was appointed bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the AME Church by the General Conference May 20th at Kansas City.

Four young men were ordained to the ministry by Bishop Nichols at the morning session of the conference. Clerical and lay delegates from 79 New York congregations attended the four-day meeting.

## Bethel Church Holds Acquaintance Meet For New Minister

### Friends of Church Join In Get-together Honoring Pastor and Wife at Tea

A spirit of real hospitality was in evidence at the "get acquainted" tea in honor of their recently appointed pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Collier and young son at the Bethel AME Church last Sunday from 4 to 7 p. m.

The tea was under the auspices of the several clubs of the Church which by close cooperation made it one of the nicest affairs of its kind for a long time. From a lace-covered table with a centerpiece of pink roses, delicious sandwiches of every shape and flavor, assorted cookies, home-made cake, nuts, candy and tea were generously served by the club members.

A musical program was rendered under the direction of Mrs. Robert Curry, organist of the Church. Besides piano selections by her three little Tinch sisters, Mrs. Curry rendered several selections accompanied by Sandra, the oldest of the three. Two piano numbers by Bishop were also given.

Many visitors were in attendance and there was an air of real festivity as neighbors chatted over their cups of tea. Clubs and their presidents were: The King's Daughters, Mrs. Alex Harrison, General Chair; Daughters of Allen, Mrs. L. C. Butler; Sons and Daughters of Bethel, Mrs. M. Watson; Trustee's Aid, Mrs. E. Robinson; Stewardess Board No. 1, Mrs. M. Bell; Board No. 2, Mrs. J. Williams; Board No. 3, Mrs. C. Brunson; Board No. 4, Mrs. G. Braden; Minister's Aid, Mrs. D. Laws; H. P. Anderson Club, Mrs. G. How-

Mr. J. Byrd, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mrs. A. Rogers; Junior Choir, Mrs. H.

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

Holmes  
Opens Pastorate Here



REV. J. W. P. COLLIER JR.

## New Pastor Cites Menace of Secularism

Church people must demonstrate the power of religion in their daily lives to stop the growing trend toward secularism, the Rev. John W. P. Collier Jr. declared Sunday morning in his first sermon as pastor of Bethel AME Church.

Mr. Collier, formerly head of the Department of Rural Church at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O., warned that secularism is "increasing on college campuses and even family groups are finding it possible to exist with less recognition of the presence of God in their lives."

"Attempts at world peace exclude the idea of God and basic spiritual concepts," he continued. "Even churches themselves on occasion are finding it expedient to resort to methods which are godless. Instead of practicing stewardship, some commercialize themselves by holding raffles."

Urging his congregation to "concern yourselves with everything that affects human personality," the preacher added:

"Problems of education, housing, health, recreation, government, labor, human relationships and war and peace are problems which demand the best the church can offer. Only as the church faces these problems realistically and effectively is its continued existence justified. As Christians we must choose wisely among alternatives in the light of permanent values."